



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101

May 2, 2022

REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATOR'S
DIVISION

(b) (6)

Volunteer, 350
Tacoma, Washington 98421

Dear (b) (6)

Thank you for your letter dated April 6, 2022, to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra about the potential environmental impacts associated with a proposed warehouse development in Tacoma, Washington. Health and Human Services referred your letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on April 11, 2022, and I am responding on behalf of EPA.

EPA's mission is to protect human health and the environment through the administration of environmental laws. Accordingly, we appreciate your questions and concerns regarding the proposed Bridge BNSF Warehouse Project being considered by the City of Tacoma.

You have inquired about federal input on this proposed project. Please note: the proposed project spans multiple jurisdictions (federal, state, and local governments). EPA's authorities apply specifically to federal statutes and programs, including our authorities under the Superfund program. A portion of the project involves the development within the Commencement Bay/South Tacoma Channel Superfund Site, South Tacoma Field (Operable Unit 4). EPA provided a response to inquiries by Bridge Industrial on August 18, 2021, stating that it is important that any development be compatible with the cleanup actions and property use restrictions associated with the Superfund cleanup. In addition, on March 10, 2022, EPA submitted comments to the City of Tacoma during its public notice period for the project under the Washington State Environmental Policy Act. These comments focused on minimizing and avoiding impacts to the Superfund remedy. EPA's Superfund program will continue to engage with any potential impacts to the Superfund site.

Your letter references the goals of 350 Tacoma, including climate justice and your concerns about impacts from this proposed project to the South Tacoma community. EPA's Environmental Justice program promotes the meaningful engagement of communities with environmental justice concerns in EPA's work. Any future public participation opportunities associated with the Superfund site can be found on the [Site's website](#)¹. There may be additional resources available associated with redevelopment efforts at this Site. For example, EPA's Superfund Redevelopment Program provides technical support to communities through its Technical Assistance Services for Communities contract. This contract can be used to secure scientists and engineers to help explain technical issues related to the cleanup and key considerations for the Site's future use. More information about [EPA's Technical Assistance Services for Communities Program](#) can be found on our website².

Your letter noted concern about the increase in vehicle traffic associated with the proposed warehouse project. EPA has established air sensor loan programs independently and through various collaborations

¹ <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=1000979>

² <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program>

with libraries, tribes, museums, and others to enable the public to learn more about air quality in their communities. Both the [EPA](https://www.epa.gov/air-sensor-toolbox/air-sensor-loan-programs)³ and the [Puget Sound Clean Air Agency](https://www.pscleanair.gov/539/Air-Quality-Sensors)⁴ have sensor loan programs that provide opportunities for the public to borrow sensors. These air quality sensors can be used by the public for the purposes of community-science and provide useful local monitoring data for identifying and addressing air quality concerns.

There are also opportunities to engage on this project under state and local processes. We encourage you to engage with our state and local government counterparts to identify future opportunities for public engagement on the proposed project. Additional community tools for creating healthy, sustainable and equitable communities can be found on [EPA's Environmental Justice](https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice)⁵ website.

Again, thank you for your letter to Secretary Becerra. If you would like additional information, please feel free to contact me or Alessandro Molina, EPA Region 10's Environmental Justice Coordinator, at (206) 553-2724 or by email at molina.alessandro@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

 Digitally signed by
Rebecca Chu
Date: 2022.05.02
13:43:47 -0700
Rebecca Chu, Chief

Policy and Environmental Review Branch

³ <https://www.epa.gov/air-sensor-toolbox/air-sensor-loan-programs>

⁴ <https://www.pscleanair.gov/539/Air-Quality-Sensors>

⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/resources-creating-healthy-sustainable-and-equitable-communities#community>